

INFORMATION REPORT

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 Ministry of Interior

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1. In mid-November 1952, Major General Berndt Weinberger (fnu) was deputy chief for economic affairs of the Ministry of the Interior on Glinka Strasse, Berlin.

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2. Independent main departments assigned to the deputy chief for economic affairs included the following:
 The equipment department which was headed by Bernhardt Koppatsch and was responsible for clothing and materiel supply of all branches of the armed forces and of semimilitary organizations. The construction department which was headed by Colonel Horst Praesaler.

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Hauptingenieur Max Koehler was his first deputy and Kurt Stoph was his third deputy in charge of supply. The post of his second deputy (political) was vacant.
 The technical department which was in charge of the research and development of arms and equipment for all branches of the armed forces.
 The health department which was in charge of the medical service of all branches of the armed forces and was responsible for sanitation and hygiene at installations and quarters.
 The department for fuel and lubricants which had to establish requirements and to supply and distribute fuel and lubricants to all branches of the armed forces and to semimilitary organizations, such as the main administration of the Dienst fuer Deutschland (labor service for Germany) in Eberswalde.

The housing department which corresponded to the Soviet KEO and had charge of quarters and installations.

The administration department which was headed by ex-Major Bernhard Bechler as chief of staff, had charge of general administration including pay and had branch offices at all VP cadre units.

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3. Sections of the construction department included:
 1st Section or planning section headed by Werner Krause.
 2d Section or contracting section whose acting chief was Baumann (fnu), a former employee with the Ministry of Finances in Berlin.
 3d Section or production section headed by Roland Kuehnau.

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4th Section or procurement section headed by Duering (fnu) [redacted]

5th and 6th Sections or transportation section and technical section whose missions were still undetermined and whose personnel was not yet assigned.

7th Section or finance section headed by Georg Witzel [redacted]

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8th Section or section for classified material headed by Gerhard Pietsch.

4. A Bauunion Kueste was planned for Stralsund and was to do military construction work in addition to the Bauunionen Nord in Sagard-Glowe on Ruegen Island, Nordost in Irenzlau and Sued in Dresden. ²

5. [redacted] about seven central construction staffs were to be established with the individual district headquarters (corps headquarters) of the National Forces in 1953. Dessau, Dresden, Berlin (with the guard battalion and the officer candidate school in Treptow), Pasewalk and Rostock or Stralsund were named as locations of these staffs. ³

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1. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] Bernhard Bechler is major general of the Volkspolizei and had been known as chief of staff of the Kasernierte Volkspolizei (KVI). It is doubted that he is assigned to the administration department.

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2. [redacted] Comment. Previous information indicated that the Bauunion Nord is in charge of construction work for the navy, the Bauunion Nordost for the army (KVI) and the Bauunion Sued for the air force. The assignments of the new Bauunion Kueste are unknown.

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3. [redacted] Comment. Possibly in connection with the establishment of a military territorial administration which is equivalent to the former German Army Wehrkreise. Previous information indicated that a Territoriale Verwaltung (territorial administration) (TVW) is in existence in Dresden.

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